

**MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO - NAVE  
7506 E. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ  
AUGUST 4, 2005**

**AMENDED MINUTES  
AS APPROVED SEPTEMBER 1, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Art DeCabooter, Chairman  
Christina Kovach, Vice-chair, (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)  
Tim Bray  
Carla  
Erik Filsinger  
Joan Fudala  
Melinda Gulick,(arrived at 5:10 p.m.)  
Virginia Korte  
Jerry Miller  
Arnold Roy  
Linda Whitehead  
Solange Whitehead

**STAFF:** Bob Cafarella  
Scott Hamilton  
Don Meserve  
Claire Miller

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman DeCabooter called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. He welcomed Commissioners Linda Whitehead, Joan Fudala and Gerry Miller to the Commission. At the invitation of the Chairman, those present introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2005 MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER FILSINGER MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2005 MEETING BE APPROVED. COMMISSIONER SOLANGE WHITEHEAD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF TWELVE (12) TO ZERO (0).**

**APS POWER LINE AND SUBSTATION PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Cafarella introduced Jennifer from URS and Michelle Lehman from APS. Ms. Lehman distributed her contact information and the APS Northeast Valley power line and the April substation project newsletter. She shared information pertaining to the progress of the project. Jennifer gave a presentation on the selection of the route for the power line.

## **STATE LAND REFORM UPDATE**

Commissioner Carla distributed a handout entitled "Conserving Arizona's Future: A Guide to the Arizona State Trust Land Reform Initiative." in addition to a flyer entitled "Conserving Arizona's Future: An Initiative for the November 2006 Ballot," and a map entitled "Conserving Arizona's Future: McDowell Sonoran Preserve." She outlined the initiative and how it affects the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, noting buy-in by both educational and conservation groups. Commissioner Carla announced that a training session is scheduled for September 8th for volunteers who wish to help with the petition. A discussion ensued on the initiative and the process for having it on the ballot for November 2006.

Chairman DeCabooter stated that he would have a City attorney attend the next meeting of the Commission to discuss what the City and the Commission can and cannot do.

At the end of the discussion, Commissioner Carla stressed that the current focus was to collect signatures and donations.

Commissioner Korte thanked Commissioner Carla for her years of personal effort on this initiative.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ON TRAIL ALIGNMENT**

Commissioner Carla spoke on the proposed changes to the northern area of the trail system. Most of the proposed adjustments were either to make hiking a more pleasant experience for seniors, or because the adjustments would be better for the land. The overriding consideration is always what is best for the land.

Ms. Miller stressed that no new trails are to be made. The proposals call for minor changes to the master plan for existing trails currently in use. Mr. Gruber, MSLP Preserve Steward, presented the four proposed adjustments. Some trails do not conform to the current master plan and the proposal is to abandon them. At the end of the process, if the suggestions were adopted, all public hikes will be fully consistent with the trails plan, as modified.

Commissioner Carla explained that the Land Trust has done this to ensure that the Trust is setting the best example. Mr. Gruber said they hoped to have the adjustments in place by mid-October. For the benefit of new Commissioners, Commissioner Carla gave a brief history of the Preserve trails.

**COMMISSIONER KORTE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE MINOR TRAIL ALIGNMENT ADJUSTMENTS AND INCLUDE THEM IN THE TRAIL PLAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FUDALA AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF TWELVE (12) TO ZERO (0).**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Chairman DeCabooter announced that thanks to the recent rain, it is believed that the Preserve could safely be reopened, as the threat of wildfire had been greatly reduced. However, Council must approve a resolution rescinding the closure. A special Council

meeting would be scheduled as quickly as possible. Work continues at the Lost Dog Wash access area. Mr. Cafarella confirmed that the trailhead and all associated construction is scheduled for completion by March 2006.

### **PRESERVE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Miller reported that vegetation is being moved at the Lost Dog Wash access area and a temporary nursery has been set up to house those plants. She commended the stewards for the great job they had done while the Preserve was closed. The construction around Bell Pass is the next area planned to be worked on.

### **FUTURE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION**

**COMMISSIONER CARLA MADE A MOTION TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2005, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. COMMISSIONER FUDALA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF TWELVE (12) TO ZERO (0).**

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice-Chair Kovach announced that the Promotion Sub-Committee would welcome new members who would like to join the Sub-Committee. She distributed copies of the draft Marketing Communications Plan, which will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Commissioner Carla noted that H.B. Wallace had passed away.

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Commissioner Miller requested that consideration of whether the City should have a program of noxious weed removal within the Preserve be placed on a future agenda. At that time he would make a presentation on the scope of the issue and possible actions that could be taken.

Commissioner Carla commented that the Sonoran Institute had produced playing cards to educate the public about noxious weeds.

Mr. Cafarella asked whether the Commission was still interested in a joint meeting with Fountain Hills. Chairman DeCabooter said that perhaps the Chair of the Fountain Hills committee could be invited to give an update.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A-V Tronics, Inc.